

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 3 and 15-23 are pending with Claims 3 and 18 being independent. Claims 3 and 15-21 have been amended. Claims 22 and 23 have been added. Support for the new claims and claim changes can be found in the original disclosure; support for the amendments to Claims 3 and 18 can be found, for example, on page 26, line 19 through page 27, line 3 of the specification; support for the amendments to Claims 15-17 and 19-21 can be found, for example, on page 30, lines 9-16 and on page 31, lines 5-12 of the specification; and support for Claims 22 and 23 can be found, for example, on page 50, lines 8-14 of the specification, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

Claims 3 and 15-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0008360 (Ankrum et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,062,579 (Tateyama et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 3 and 18 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 3 relates to a digital camera that can directly communicate with a printer, comprising a receiving unit that receives capability information of the printer from the printer, the capability information including first information and second information, the first information indicating whether the printer has a first function, and the second information indicating whether the printer has a second function. Independent Claim 3 also recites a determination unit that (a) determines, based on the first information included in the capability information received by the receiving unit, whether the printer has the first function, and (b) determines, based on the second information included in the capability information received by the receiving unit, whether the printer has the second function. Independent Claim 3 further recites a user interface that notifies a user that the printer has the first function and the second function.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the first information indicates whether the printer has a first function of automatically detecting a size of paper set on the printer, and the second information indicates whether the printer has a second function of automatically detecting a type of paper set on the printer. Claim 3 has been further amended to recite that the user interface notifies a user that the printer has the first function and the second function, if the determination unit determines that the printer has the first function and the second function.

In contrast, the citations to Tateyama et al. and Ankrum et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest a receiving unit that receives capability information of the printer from the printer, the capability information including first information and second information, the first information indicating whether the printer has a first function of automatically detecting a size of paper set on the printer, and the second information indicating whether

the printer has a second function of automatically detecting a type of paper set on the printer.

Therefore, these citations are also not understood to disclose or suggest a determination unit that (a) determines, based on the first information included in the capability information received by the receiving unit, whether the printer has the first function, and (b) determines, based on the second information included in the capability information received by the receiving unit, whether the printer has the second function, or a user interface that notifies a user that the printer has the first function and the second function, if the determination unit determines that the printer has the first function and the second function.

The Office Action cites paper size and paper type parameter areas 408 and 406 in the Ankrum et al. publication as showing the claimed first and second information. But these areas are understood to merely display default values of parameters for a given task (such as printing) and to permit a user to change the parameters if desired. No capability information about whether a printer can automatically detect a size or type of paper set on the printer is understood to be disclosed:

[0022] ...The user thus clicks within the text box 304 to select one of the tasks from the task list 306, which is then displayed in the text box 304. When finished, the user may select the print button 308, the view parameters button 310, or the parameters tabbed frame 312, as will be described....

[0027]the allowable values for the subset of parameters are displayed, with the initial values of those allowable values highlighted (216)..... The user is permitted or enabled to change the values of the subset of parameters to other allowable values (218)....

[0028] For example, selecting the view parameters button 310 in FIG. 3, or the parameters tabbed frame 312 in FIG. 3, causes the frame 312 to be displayed in the forefront within the window 300. This is shown in FIG. 4. In FIG. 4, the parameters tabbed frame 312 has areas displayed for four specific parameters: a print quality parameter area 402, a duplexing parameter area 404, a paper type parameter area 406, and a paper size parameter area 408....

[0030] For the paper type parameter area 406, there is a drop-down text box 414, with the initial value for the paper type parameter, photo paper, highlighted. Selecting the box 414 may cause a list of other allowable values to be displayed, from which the user can choose. Similarly, for the paper size parameter area 408, there is a drop-down text box 416, with the initial value for the paper size parameter, letter, highlighted. Selecting the box 416 may cause a list of other allowable values to be displayed, from which the user can choose.

[0031] The user is thus not encumbered with the ability to change all the parameters of the device among all the possible values for the parameters. The parameters tabbed frame 312 lists a subset of the parameters, based on the desired task that is to be performed by the device, and shows allowable values for each of these parameters, also based on the desired task that is to be performed by the device. Non-allowable combinations are eliminated and confusion and uncertainty on the part of the user are, therefore, preferably reduced, if not eliminated.

[0032] Once the user has modified any of the initially highlighted values within the parameter areas 402, 404, 406, and 408, the personal task area 418 is enabled. The personal task area 418 permits the user to save under a new task the current values for the parameters within the areas 402, 404, 406, and 408, as one or more of which have been changed from their initial values.... Once this has been done, the user selects the save button 422 to save the current values as the new task with the name given.

In addition, the citation to Tateyama et al. is also understood to be silent as to a digital camera receiving capability information about whether a printer can automatically detect a size or type of paper set on the printer.

Since amended Claim 3 is understood to recite several features not disclosed or suggested by the citations to Tateyama et al. and Ankrum et al., Applicants submit that the Office has not yet satisfied its burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 3. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 3 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claim 18 has been amended to recite similar features, it is submitted to be allowable for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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